

Administration of Muslim Law (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 25/2026.

Read the first time on 6 October 2026.

A BILL

i n t i t u l e d

An Act to amend the Administration of Muslim Law Act 1966 and to make consequential and related amendments to certain other Acts.

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

Short title and commencement

1. This Act is the Administration of Muslim Law (Amendment) Act 2026 and comes into operation on a date that the Minister appoints by notification in the *Gazette*.

PART 1

PRELIMINARY

Amendment of long title

2. In the Administration of Muslim Law Act 1966 (called in this Act the principal Act), in the long title, replace “and to make provision for regulating Muslim religious affairs” with “, to make provision for regulating Muslim religious affairs, to provide for certain matters relating to the operation of an institution of higher education known as Singapore College of Islamic Studies,”.

Amendment of section 2

3. In the principal Act, in section 2 —

(a) delete “, unless the context otherwise requires”;

(b) after the definition of “attend”, insert —

““basic Islamic instruction” means the teaching of Quranic recitation, Quranic literacy, tajwid (rules of recitation) or fardh ‘ain (basic knowledge of Islamic creed and practice);”;

(c) in the definition of “child of the parties”, replace “annulled” with “nullified”;

(d) after the definition of “child of the parties”, insert —

““college company” means the public company limited by guarantee incorporated under the Companies Act 1967 on 14 November 2025 under the name “Singapore College of Islamic Studies Ltd.”;

“constitution”, in relation to the college company, means the constitution of the college company,

as amended from time to time, that is registered with the Registrar of Companies under the Companies Act 1967;”;

(e) delete the definition of “dependent child of the parties”;

(f) after the definition of “emas kahwin”, insert —

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““family member”, in relation to an individual, means any of the following relations of the individual:

(a) a spouse;

(b) a child, including an adopted child and a stepchild;

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(c) a parent;

(d) a father-in-law or mother-in-law;

(e) a sibling;

(f) any other individual who is related by blood or marriage to, and who is living in the same household as, the individual;”;

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(g) after the definition of “halal certificate”, insert —

““higher education” means education beyond the standard normally required for admission to a university;”;

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(h) after the definition of “Islamic instruction”, insert —

““Islamic teacher” means an individual who provides Islamic instruction in any subject or field to one or more students, but does not include anyone who habitually provides Islamic instruction exclusively to his or her family members;”;

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(i) after the definition of “Majlis”, insert —

““minor child” means a child who is below 21 years of age;”;

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(j) after the definition of “product”, insert —

““Quranic teacher” means an individual who provides only basic Islamic instruction to one or more students, but does not include anyone who habitually provides basic Islamic instruction exclusively to his or her family members;”;

(*k*) in the definition of “Register of Divorces”, replace “section 100” with “section 100A”;

(*l*) after the definition of “Registrar”, insert —

““SCIS” means Singapore College of Islamic Studies;

“SCIS Board” means the Board of Directors of the college company mentioned in its constitution;”;
and

(*m*) after the definition of “specified halal certification mark”, insert —

““tertiary religious education” means higher education in Islamic instruction;”.

PART 2

AMENDMENTS RELATING TO SINGAPORE COLLEGE OF ISLAMIC STUDIES

Amendment of section 3

4. In the principal Act, in section 3(2), after paragraph (*d*), insert —

“(da) to oversee the provision of tertiary religious education at the SCIS for the purpose of developing Islamic teachers who are suitably qualified and trained to guide the Muslim community in Singapore;

(db) to provide financial support to the college company for the establishment, operation, maintenance or promotion of the SCIS for any purposes connected with tertiary religious education;”.

New Part 4A

5. In the principal Act, after Part 4, insert —

“PART 4A

SINGAPORE COLLEGE OF ISLAMIC STUDIES

Division 1 — Preliminary

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Interpretation of this Part

73B. In this Part, a reference to the operation of the SCIS is a reference to the establishment, operation, maintenance or promotion of the SCIS.

Function of college company to confer and award degrees, etc.

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73C.—(1) It is a function of the college company to pursue, within the limits of the financial resources available to it, the objects provided by its constitution and, in particular, to confer and award degrees, diplomas and certificates (including honorary degrees and other distinctions) in respect of tertiary religious education under the name and style “Singapore College of Islamic Studies”.

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(2) To avoid doubt, subsection (1) does not prevent the college company from carrying out any function in respect of any higher education that is not tertiary religious education in accordance with the objects provided by its constitution.

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Provision of funding

73D.—(1) Despite anything else in this Act, the Majlis may pay moneys to the college company for funding the college company’s operation of the SCIS for any purposes connected with tertiary religious education, from all or any of the following:

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(a) money and property in the General Endowment Fund vested in the Majlis under section 57;

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(b) zakat and fitrah collected under section 68;

(c) moneys collected for charitable purposes under section 71;

(d) moneys in the Mosque Building and Mendaki Fund vested in the Majlis under section 76.

(2) Subsection (1) does not prevent the college company —

(a) from receiving grants or other moneys from the Government for funding the college company's operation of the SCIS for any higher education that is not tertiary religious education; and

(b) from obtaining any other funding for its operation of the SCIS in accordance with its constitution or any written law.

(3) All moneys of any kind described in subsections (1) and (2)(a) that are paid to the college company must only be applied or expended by the college company for any objects provided by its constitution as the Minister may allow.

*Division 2 — Oversight by Majlis of
tertiary religious education at SCIS*

**Directions for or in respect of provision of tertiary
religious education**

73E.—(1) The Majlis may give one or more directions to the college company for or in respect of its provision of tertiary religious education at the SCIS, if the Majlis considers it necessary or expedient —

(a) to ensure that fit and proper individuals with satisfactory training and experience are employed or engaged by the college company as Islamic teachers at the SCIS;

(b) to prevent, or take remedial action against, any provision of Islamic instruction by Islamic teachers at the SCIS that is, or is likely to be, contrary to the Muslim law or the conduct of Muslim religious affairs in Singapore;

(c) to develop Islamic teachers to support the religious affairs of Muslims in Singapore; or

(d) in the public interest.

(2) To avoid doubt, a direction under subsection (1)(a) must not affect the college company's employment or engagement of —

(a) teachers who are not Islamic teachers; or

(b) other individuals, including any staff, who are otherwise not involved in the provision of Islamic instruction.

(3) The college company must comply with every direction given by the Majlis under subsection (1).

Division 3 — Oversight by Minister or authorised person

Accountability and evaluation

73F.—(1) The college company must comply with the accountability framework for its operation of the SCIS as set out in any written agreement between the college company and the Minister or a person authorised by the Minister.

(2) The college company must evaluate the performance of its operation of the SCIS in accordance with any quality assurance framework decided by the Minister.

(3) The college company must participate in the evaluation of its operation of the SCIS by any external review panel that the Minister may commission from time to time.

Appointment to SCIS Board

73G.—(1) The SCIS Board consists of any number of directors that the Minister appoints.

(2) The Minister may, at any time, remove or replace any director of the SCIS Board, or appoint new or additional directors to the SCIS Board.

(3) For the purposes of subsections (1) and (2), the Minister may appoint, remove or replace —

(a) the Chief Executive as a director of the SCIS Board;
and

(b) any other individual as a director of the SCIS Board,
after consulting the Chief Executive.

Consent of Minister

73H.—(1) The prior written consent of the Minister is required for the following matters:

(a) the admission of any person as a member of the college company and the removal of any such member;

(b) the disposal of the whole or substantially the whole of the college company's undertaking or property;

(c) the voluntary winding up of the college company;

(d) the addition, deletion or alteration of any provision of the college company's constitution;

(e) the cessation of the whole or substantially the whole of the operation of the college company;

(f) the closure of the whole or substantially the whole of the SCIS.

(2) The requirements under subsection (1) apply in addition to the requirements prescribed by the Companies Act 1967 and the Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act 2018 in respect of the matters in subsection (1)(a) to (f).

(3) Any act done or agreement made in contravention of subsection (1) has no effect and is unenforceable at law.

Access to accounts and summary of financial statements

73I.—(1) The Minister or a person authorised by the Minister (called in this section an authorised person) is entitled, at all reasonable times, to full and free access to all accounting and

other records relating, directly or indirectly, to the financial transactions of the college company.

(2) The Minister or an authorised person may require any person to provide any information in that person's possession, or to which that person has access, that the Minister or authorised person (as the case may be) considers necessary for ascertaining —

(a) whether moneys paid to the college company under section 73D(1) were applied or expended in accordance with section 73D(3);

(b) whether grants or other moneys paid to the college company by the Government as mentioned in section 73D(2)(a) were applied or expended in accordance with section 73D(3); or

(c) any other matters that the Minister or authorised person requires.

(3) The college company must —

(a) prepare a summary of the financial statements of the college company in any form and containing any information as the Minister may decide; and

(b) make available the summary mentioned in paragraph (a) to the public at any frequency and in any manner as the Minister may decide.

(4) The requirements under subsection (3) apply in addition to the requirements prescribed by the Companies Act 1967 in respect of financial statements and summaries of financial statements.

(5) Any person who —

(a) without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with any requirement of the Minister or an authorised person under subsection (2); or

(b) otherwise hinders, obstructs or delays the Minister or an authorised person in the performance of his or her

duties or in the exercise of his or her powers under this section,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000.

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Division 4 — Miscellaneous provisions

Application of Societies Act 1966 to student bodies

73J.—(1) To avoid doubt, the Societies Act 1966 applies to any student body constituted under the provisions of the constitution of the college company.

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(2) The Minister charged with the responsibility for societies may, by order in the *Gazette*, exempt any student body mentioned in subsection (1) from all or any of the provisions of the Societies Act 1966, subject to any conditions specified in the order.

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Act to prevail over constitution, etc.

73K.—(1) If any provision of the constitution of the college company (called a constitution provision), or any by-law, rule or regulation of the college company made under a constitution provision (called a college company regulation), is inconsistent with any provision of this Act, the constitution provision or college company regulation (as the case may be) is void to the extent of that inconsistency.

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(2) Nothing in this Act is to be construed as excusing or exempting the college company from complying with any written law that, apart from this Act, would apply to the college company.”.

Amendment of section 86A

6. In the principal Act, in section 86A, after subsection (3), insert —

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“(4) Despite subsection (1), the SCIS is not to be treated as a Muslim religious school for the purposes of this Act.”.

Amendment of section 88G

7. In the principal Act, in section 88G —

(a) replace “may appeal to the Minister against the act, decision, order or direction” with “decisions of the Majlis may appeal to the Minister against the decision”; 5
and

(b) replace paragraph (a) with —

“(aa) any decision of the Majlis to give a direction under section 73E(1);

(a) any decision of the Majlis under section 87 10
or any rules made under that section
(including any decision to act, or to give
any order or direction);”.

Amendment of section 88I

8. In the principal Act, in section 88I(7), delete “, order or 15
direction” wherever it appears.

PART 3

AMENDMENTS RELATING TO JURISDICTION OF SYARIAH COURT AND RELATED MATTERS

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New section 33A

9. In the principal Act, in Part 3, before section 34, insert —

“Interpretation of this Part

33A.—(1) In this Part —

“CCCA order” means any order with respect to the custody 25
of, care and control of, or access to a minor child of
parties to a marriage on divorce or nullity of marriage;

“foreign country” includes a foreign territory;

“FR order” means any order for financial relief with respect
to — 30

(a) the payment of maintenance and the provision of necessary clothing and suitable lodging to a woman who has been divorced for the period of her iddah;

(b) the payment of *emas kahwin* and marriage expenses (*hantaran belanja*) to a woman who has been divorced;

(c) the payment of a consolatory gift or *mutaah* to a woman who has been divorced by her husband;

(d) the maintenance of a minor child of parties to a marriage on divorce or nullity of marriage; or

(e) the disposition or division of property on divorce or nullity of marriage;

“judicial or other proceedings”, in relation to a foreign country, includes acts which constitute the means by which a divorce or a nullity of marriage may be obtained in the foreign country and which are done in compliance with the law of the foreign country.

(2) In this Part, an individual (*A*) is a party to a foreign divorce or nullity of marriage if all of the following apply in relation to *A* and the other party to the marriage (*B*):

(a) *A* and *B* are Muslims in all proceedings in the Court, or *A* and *B* were married under the provisions of the Muslim law;

(b) the marriage between *A* and *B* took place in Singapore or in a foreign country;

(c) the marriage has been dissolved or nullified by means of judicial or other proceedings in a foreign country;

(d) the divorce or nullity of marriage (as the case may be) is recognised as valid under the provisions of the Muslim law.

(3) In this Part, “property”, in relation to any disposition or division of property on divorce or nullity of marriage, means —

(a) any asset acquired before the marriage by one party or both parties to the marriage that has been substantially improved during the marriage by the other party or by both parties to the marriage; and

(b) any other asset of any nature acquired during the marriage by one party or both parties to the marriage,

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but does not include any asset (not being a matrimonial home) that has been acquired by one party at any time by gift or inheritance and that has not been substantially improved during the marriage by the other party or by both parties to the marriage.”.

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Amendment of section 35

10. In the principal Act, in section 35 —

(a) in subsection (2), replace “subsection (3)” with “subsections (3) and (3A)”;

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(b) in subsections (2)(ca) and (4), replace “custody, care and control, access” with “custody of, care and control of, access to”;

(c) in subsections (2)(ca) and (d) and (4), replace “nullification” wherever it appears with “nullity”;

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(d) after subsection (3), insert —

“(3A) The Court has jurisdiction to hear and determine an application for any CCCA order or FR order made by a party to a foreign divorce or nullity of marriage only if —

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(a) one of the parties to the marriage is domiciled in Singapore on the date of the application for permission under section 35AB or was so domiciled on the date on which the divorce or nullity of marriage obtained in a foreign country took effect in the foreign country; or

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(b) one of the parties to the marriage was habitually resident in Singapore for a period of at least 3 years immediately before the date of the application for permission under section 35AB or was so resident immediately before the date on which the divorce or nullity of marriage obtained in a foreign country took effect in the foreign country.”; and

(e) in subsection (5), replace “subsection (3)” with “subsections (3) and (3A)”.

Amendment of section 35A

11. In the principal Act, in section 35A —

(a) in the section heading, replace “**custody of children**” with “**nullity of marriage, etc.**”;

(b) replace subsections (1) and (2) with —

“(1) Any of the parties to a marriage who intends to commence —

(a) civil proceedings in a court involving any matter relating to the disposition or division of property on divorce or nullity of marriage; or

(b) civil proceedings in a court involving any matter relating to the custody of, care and control of, or access to any minor child of the parties,

must apply to the Court for permission to commence those civil proceedings in the court, if he or she intends to do so at any of the following times:

(c) on or after the commencement of any Muslim family proceedings involving the same parties in the Court;

- (d) after the making of a decree or order for divorce or nullity of marriage by the Court;
- (e) on or after the registration of a divorce in respect of the marriage under section 102.

(2) Where civil proceedings described in subsection (1)(b) have commenced between parties to a marriage, but any of the following occur after the commencement of those civil proceedings: 5

- (a) any Muslim family proceedings involving the same parties are commenced in the Court; 10
- (b) a decree or order for divorce or nullity of marriage is made by the Court;
- (c) a divorce in respect of the marriage is registered under section 102, 15

any party to the marriage who intends to continue those civil proceedings must apply to the Court for permission to do so.”; and

(c) after subsection (8), insert —

“(9) In this section — 20

“Muslim family proceedings” means —

- (a) proceedings for divorce or nullity of marriage under this Act; or
- (b) proceedings for an application for a CCCA order or FR order under section 52A; 25

“parties to a marriage” means parties to a marriage where —

- (a) the parties are Muslims in all proceedings in the Court; or 30
- (b) the parties were married under the provisions of the Muslim law.”.

New section 35AB

12. In the principal Act, after section 35A, insert —

“Permission to apply for orders consequent on foreign matrimonial proceedings, etc.

35AB.—(1) A party to a foreign divorce or nullity of marriage who wishes to make an application for any CCCA order or FR order must first obtain the permission of the Court in accordance with rules made under section 145 to make that application.

(2) The Court is not to grant permission unless it considers that there is substantial ground for making an application for the CCCA order or FR order.

(3) The Court may grant permission under this section even though an order has been made by a court of competent jurisdiction in a foreign country requiring the other party to the marriage to make any payment, or transfer any property, to the party or a minor child of the parties to the marriage.

(4) Permission under this section may be granted subject to any conditions that the Court thinks fit.”.

Amendment of section 43C

13. In the principal Act, in section 43C(5)(a), replace “annulment” with “nullity”.

Amendment of section 46A

14. In the principal Act, in section 46A(12), in the definition of “parenting plan”, replace “dependent” with “minor”.

Amendment of section 46B

15. In the principal Act, in section 46B —

(a) in the section heading, after “**husband’s**”, insert “**or wife’s**”; and

(b) replace subsection (3) with —

“(3) If a married man pronounces a divorce (talak) or his wife pronounces a divorce after delegation of talak by the man to her (talak tafwidh), the Court must cause the divorce to be registered if the Court is satisfied that the divorce is valid in accordance with the Muslim law.”.

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Amendment of section 47

16. In the principal Act, in section 47 —

(a) replace subsection (3) with —

“(3) If the husband so consents, the Court must cause the husband to pronounce the divorce or to delegate the pronouncement of the divorce to the wife concerned.

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(3A) If the husband pronounces the divorce (talak), or the wife pronounces the divorce after delegation of talak by the husband to her (talak tafwidh), the Court must cause the divorce to be registered if the Court is satisfied that the divorce is valid in accordance with the Muslim law.”; and

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(b) in subsection (6), after “husband”, insert “, or a woman who has pronounced a divorce after delegation of talak by her husband to her (talak tafwidh)”.

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Amendment of section 49

17. In the principal Act, in section 49, after subsection (4), insert —

“(4A) If the Court considers that the requirement for sworn statements of at least 2 witnesses under subsection (4) is not practical or necessary in the circumstances, the Court may dispense with that requirement or substitute that requirement with any requirement that the Court thinks fit.”.

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Amendment of section 52

18. In the principal Act, in section 52 —

(a) in the section heading, after “**proceedings**”, insert “**in Singapore**”;

5 (b) in subsection (3)(c), replace “custody, care and control, access” with “custody of, care and control of, access to”;

(c) in subsection (3)(d), replace “nullification” with “nullity”;

(d) after subsection (3), insert —

10 “(3A) In deciding in whose custody, or in whose care and control, a minor child should be placed for the purposes of an order under subsection (3)(c), the paramount consideration is to be the welfare of the minor child and subject to this, the Court is to have regard —

15 (a) to the wishes of the parents of the minor child; and

(b) to the wishes of the minor child, where he or she is of an age to express an independent opinion.”;

20 (e) after subsection (5), insert —

“(5A) Without limiting subsection (5) —

25 (a) an order for custody under subsection (3)(c) may contain conditions as to the place where the minor child is to reside and as to the manner of his or her education; and

30 (b) an order for care and control under subsection (3)(c) may contain conditions as to the place where the minor child is to reside.

(5B) Despite an order for custody, or an order for care and control, being in force, a person must not take the minor child who is the subject of the order out

of Singapore, except with the written consent of both parents or the permission of the Court.

(5C) Subsection (5B) does not prevent —

- (a) the person given custody, or care and control, of the minor child; or
- (b) any other person who has the written consent of the person given custody, or care and control, of the minor child,

from taking the minor child out of Singapore for a period shorter than one month.

(5D) The Court may, on the application of the father or mother of a minor child —

- (a) where any matrimonial proceedings are pending; or
- (b) where one parent has custody, or care and control, of the minor child to the exclusion of the other parent under any agreement, or order of the Court,

do all or any of the following:

- (c) issue an order restraining the other parent from taking the minor child out of Singapore;
- (d) grant permission for the minor child to be taken out of Singapore either unconditionally or subject to any conditions or any undertaking that the Court thinks fit.

(5E) Subsection (5F) applies where one parent has custody, or care and control, of a minor child to the exclusion of the other parent under any order of the Court (called in this section a past CCC order) made before the date of commencement of section 18 of the Administration of Muslim Law (Amendment)

Act 2026 (called in this section relevant commencement date).

(5F) On or after the relevant commencement date, the Court may review the past CCC order —

- (a) on the application of the father or mother of the minor child; or
- (b) in the course of any matrimonial proceedings before the Court and on the Court's own motion,

if the Court is of the opinion that the review is necessary for the welfare of the child.

(5G) Subsection (3A) applies to the review of the past CCC order under subsection (5F) as it applies to the making of an order under subsection (3)(c) and, subject to subsection (5H), the Court may do all or any of the following after the review:

- (a) impose any conditions as to the place where the minor child is to reside and (in a case of an order for custody) the manner of his or her education;
- (b) issue an order restraining the other parent from taking the minor child out of Singapore;
- (c) grant permission for the minor child to be taken out of Singapore either unconditionally or subject to any conditions or any undertaking that the Court thinks fit.

(5H) Where subsection (5F)(b) applies, the Court is not to exercise all or any of the powers under subsection (5G)(a), (b) or (c) unless the parents of the minor child have been given an opportunity to be heard.

(5I) To avoid doubt, where subsections (5E) and (5F) apply, subsections (5G) and (5H) (instead of section 43(2) and (3)) apply in relation to the Court’s powers in acting on its own motion.”;

(f) in subsection (8)(m), replace “annulment of the marriage” with “nullity of marriage”; and 5

(g) replace subsections (13) and (14) with —

“(13) Any person who —

(a) fails to comply with an order of the Court made under this section; 10

(b) fails to comply with subsection (5B);

(c) fails to comply with an order issued by the Court under subsection (5D)(c) or (5G)(b); or

(d) takes a minor child out of Singapore in breach of any condition or undertaking mentioned in subsection (5D)(d) or (5G)(c), 15

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.”. 20

New section 52A

19. In the principal Act, after section 52, insert —

“Provisions for orders consequent on foreign matrimonial proceedings 25

52A.—(1) This section applies where a party to a foreign divorce or nullity of marriage has obtained the Court’s permission under section 35AB to make an application for any CCCA order or FR order.

(2) The application for any CCCA order or FR order by the party (called in this section an applicant) must be made in accordance with rules made under section 145. 30

(3) On an application for any CCCA order or FR order, the Court is to be satisfied before making any such order that it is appropriate in all circumstances of the case (including by having regard to the matters described in subsections (7) and (8)) to make any such order.

(4) If the Court is satisfied in accordance with subsection (3), the Court may make any CCCA order or FR order that the Court could have made under section 51 or 52 in the like manner as if a decree or order of divorce or nullity of marriage had been made by the Court.

(5) Any CCCA order or FR order made by the Court is to be treated as an order made under section 51 or 52 (as the case may be) that is enforceable in accordance with section 53.

(6) If the Court is not satisfied in accordance with subsection (3), the Court may dismiss the application.

(7) Without limiting subsection (3), the Court is to have regard to the following matters for an application for any CCCA order:

- (a) the connection which the parties to the marriage and a minor child of those parties have with Singapore;
- (b) the connection which the parties to the marriage and a minor child of those parties have with the foreign country in which the marriage was dissolved or nullified;
- (c) the connection which the parties to the marriage and a minor child of those parties have with any other foreign country;
- (d) any arrangement on custody of, care and control of, or access to a minor child of the parties to the marriage in consequence of the foreign divorce or nullity of marriage, by virtue of any agreement or the operation of the law of a foreign country;
- (e) where an order has been made by a court of competent jurisdiction in a foreign country on custody of, care and control of, or access to a minor child of the parties

to the marriage — the extent to which the order has been complied with or is likely to be complied with;

- (f) any right which the applicant has, or has had, to apply for any order for custody of, care and control of, or access to a minor child of the parties to the marriage under the law of any foreign country, and if the applicant has omitted to exercise that right, the reason for that omission; 5
- (g) the extent to which any CCCA order is likely to be enforceable; 10
- (h) the length of time which has elapsed since the date of the foreign divorce or nullity of marriage;
- (i) whether there is any order by a court relating to the maintenance of a wife, or a minor child of the parties to the marriage, during the subsistence of the parties' marriage. 15

(8) Without limiting subsection (3), the Court is to have regard to the following matters for an application for any FR order:

- (a) the connection which the parties to the marriage have with Singapore; 20
- (b) the connection which the parties to the marriage have with the foreign country in which the marriage was dissolved or nullified;
- (c) the connection which the parties to the marriage have with any other foreign country; 25
- (d) any financial benefit which the applicant or a minor child of the parties to the marriage has received, or is likely to receive, in consequence of the foreign divorce or nullity of marriage, by virtue of any agreement or the operation of the law of a foreign country; 30
- (e) where an order has been made by a court of competent jurisdiction in a foreign country requiring the other party to the marriage to make any payment or transfer

any property for the benefit of the applicant or a minor child of the parties to the marriage — the financial relief given by the order and the extent to which the order has been complied with or is likely to be complied with;

(f) any right which the applicant has, or has had, to apply for financial relief from the other party to the marriage under the law of any foreign country, and if the applicant has omitted to exercise that right, the reason for that omission;

(g) the availability in Singapore of any property in respect of which any FR order in favour of the applicant could be made;

(h) the extent to which any FR order is likely to be enforceable;

(i) the length of time which has elapsed since the date of the foreign divorce or nullity of marriage.

(9) Sections 43A, 43B, 43C, 51, 52 and 53 apply, with the necessary modifications, to any proceedings in connection with an application for any CCCA order or FR order and any such order made by the Court.”.

Amendment of section 53

20. In the principal Act, in section 53 —

(a) in subsection (2)(b), after “custody of”, insert “, care and control of, or access to”;

(b) after subsection (2), insert —

“(2A) In subsection (2)(b), a reference to an order for the custody of, or care and control of, a minor child under section 52(3)(c) includes an order on which any condition is imposed by the Court after a review under section 52(5G)(a).”; and

(c) replace subsection (3) with —

“(3) Despite section 3(2) of the Women’s Charter 1961 and for the sole purpose of a Family Court’s enforcement of any order of the Court mentioned in subsections (1) and (2)(b), the provisions of the Women’s Charter 1961 (including sections 126A and 126B) apply, with the necessary modifications, to the enforcement of the order by the Family Court.”.

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Amendment of section 55

21. In the principal Act, in section 55 —

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(a) in subsection (1)(d), after “custody of”, insert “, care and control of, or access to”;

(b) in subsection (1)(e), replace “nullification” with “nullity”;

(c) in subsection (1), after paragraph (f), insert —

“(fa) to grant or refuse permission to make an application for a CCCA order or FR order under section 35AB;”;

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(d) after subsection (5), insert —

“(6) Where an Appeal Board makes a decision to confirm, reverse or vary a decision of the Court that is of a kind described in section 53(1) or (2), section 53 applies, with the necessary modifications, to the enforcement of the Appeal Board’s decision as that section applies to the enforcement of a Court decision of that kind.”.

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Miscellaneous amendments on appointment of persons in proceedings involving child

22. In the principal Act —

(a) in the following provisions, replace “custody” with “custody of, care and control of, access to”:

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Section 43B(1)

Section 56B(1)(e); and

- (b) in the following provisions, replace “custody and welfare” with “custody of, care and control of, access to or welfare”:

Section 56B(1)(d)

Section 145(2)(d).

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PART 4

AMENDMENTS RELATING TO MARRIAGE

Amendment of section 95

23. In the principal Act, in section 95, after subsection (2), insert —

“(2A) An application to —

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(a) a Kadi or Naib Kadi for the solemnisation of a marriage under subsection (1)(b);

(b) a Kadi for the solemnisation of a marriage under subsection (1)(c); or

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(c) a Kadi or Naib Kadi for the written consent of a Kadi or Naib Kadi (as the case may be) for the solemnisation of a marriage by a wali under subsection (2)(a),

must be made in accordance with rules made under section 145.”.

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Amendment of section 96

24. In the principal Act, in section 96, after subsection (5), insert —

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“(6) If any of the parties to the intended marriage is not a citizen of Singapore or permanent resident of Singapore, the marriage may be solemnised under this Act only if at least one of the parties has been physically present in Singapore for the prescribed period before the date of the application mentioned in section 95(2A).

(7) The Registrar may waive the requirement in subsection (6) if the Registrar is satisfied that there are good reasons to do so.

(8) In subsection (6), “permanent resident of Singapore” has the meaning given by section 2 of the Immigration Act 1959.”.

Amendment of section 97

25. In the principal Act, in section 97(2), replace “annul” with “nullify”.

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Replacement of section 105

26. In the principal Act, replace section 105 with —

“Appeal

105.—(1) A person who is aggrieved by any of the following decisions may appeal to an Appeal Board constituted under section 55:

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- (a) a decision of a Kadi or Naib Kadi under this Act;
- (b) a decision of the Registrar not to exercise his or her power under section 96(7) to waive the requirement in section 96(6).

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(2) Section 55(4) and (5) applies, with the necessary modifications, to an appeal against a decision mentioned in subsection (1) as those provisions apply to a decision of the Syariah Court mentioned in section 55(1).”.

PART 5

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AMENDMENTS RELATING TO HALAL CERTIFICATION AND RECORD-KEEPING MATTERS

Amendment of section 88AA

27. In the principal Act, in section 88AA, after subsection (4), insert —

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“(4A) The Majlis may cancel, suspend or revoke the recognition granted to any person, authority or entity under subsection (1) in accordance with rules made under section 88C.”.

Amendment of section 100

28. In the principal Act, in section 100 —

(a) replace the section heading with —

**“Register of Marriages and Register of
Revocation of Divorces”;**

(b) in subsection (1)(a), replace “solemnised and registered” with “registered, or solemnised, or solemnised and registered,”; and

(c) replace subsection (3) with —

“(3) The following, if certified by the Registrar to be a true copy or extract, is in any proceedings admissible in evidence as of equal validity with the original document containing the information or the original record:

(a) a copy of or an extract from any information contained in the Register of Marriages or Register of Revocation of Divorces;

(b) a copy of or an extract from any record contained in the Register of Marriages or Register of Revocation of Divorces (including a copy of or an extract from any record produced from a microfilm or digital image).”.

New section 100A

29. In the principal Act, after section 100, insert —

“Register of Divorces

100A.—(1) The registrar of the Syariah Court —

(a) must maintain a Register of Divorces containing the copies of the certificates of divorce issued by that Court; and

(b) may keep the Register of Divorces in the form that the registrar of the Syariah Court may determine.

(2) Any person may, upon payment of the prescribed fee, apply for a copy of an entry in the Register of Divorces and the registrar of the Syariah Court may, if he or she thinks fit, issue the copy certified by him or her to be a true copy.

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(3) The Register of Divorces, or any copy of an entry in that Register certified under the signature and seal of office of the registrar of the Syariah Court to be a true copy, is prima facie evidence in any court or tribunal in Singapore of the dates and acts contained or set out in that Register or copy.”.

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Deletion of sections 143 and 144

30. In the principal Act, delete sections 143 and 144.

PART 6

CONSEQUENTIAL AND RELATED AMENDMENTS AND SAVING AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

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Amendment of Administration of Muslim Law (Amendment) Act 2022

31. In the Administration of Muslim Law (Amendment) Act 2022, delete section 20.

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Amendment of Central Provident Fund Act 1953

32. In the Central Provident Fund Act 1953, in section 27A, in the definition of “order of court” —

(a) in paragraph (b), delete “or” at the end;

(b) in paragraph (c), insert “or” at the end; and

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(c) after paragraph (c), insert —

“(d) an order made under section 52A of the Administration of Muslim Law Act 1966, being an order which the Syariah Court

could have made under section 52(3)(d),
(7) or (9) of that Act;”.

Amendment of Private Education Act 2009

33. In the Private Education Act 2009, in section 45(1) —

- (a) in paragraph (i), delete “and” at the end;
- (b) in paragraph (j), replace the full-stop at the end with a semi-colon; and
- (c) after paragraph (j), insert —

“(k) the Singapore College of Islamic Studies Ltd. providing private education under the name and style “Singapore College of Islamic Studies” (called SCIS) or its managers, and the teachers of the SCIS.”.

Amendment of Supreme Court of Judicature Act 1969

34. In the Supreme Court of Judicature Act 1969, in section 17A —

- (a) in subsection (2), replace “section 35(2)(d) or (e), 51 or 52(3)(c) or (d)” with “section 35(2)(ca), (d) or (e) or (3A), 51, 52(3)(c) or (d) or 52A”;
- (b) in subsection (2)(b), after “custody of”, insert “, care and control of, or access to”;
- (c) in subsection (2)(c), after “divorce”, insert “or nullity of marriage”;
- (d) in subsection (3)(a) and (b), replace “proceedings for divorce” with “Muslim family proceedings”;
- (e) in subsection (3)(a) and (b), after “decree or order for divorce”, insert “or nullity of marriage”;
- (f) in subsection (4), replace “proceedings in the Syariah Court” wherever it appears with “Muslim family proceedings in the Syariah Court”; and
- (g) in subsection (9), before the definition of “Syariah Court”, insert —

““Muslim family proceedings” means —

- (a) proceedings for divorce or nullity of marriage under the Administration of Muslim Law Act 1966; or
- (b) proceedings for an application for an order consequent on foreign matrimonial proceedings under section 52A of the Administration of Muslim Law Act 1966;”.

Saving and transitional provisions

35.—(1) Nothing in sections 33A, 35, 35A, 35AB and 52A of the principal Act as in force on or after the date of commencement of sections 9, 10, 11, 12 and 19 of this Act affects any civil family proceedings in any court involving a party to a foreign divorce or nullity of marriage —

- (a) that commenced in the court before that date; or
- (b) that commence in the court on or after that date, but relate to an order made by any court before that date.

(2) Section 52 of the principal Act as in force on or after the date of commencement of section 18 of this Act also applies in relation to any proceedings in the Syariah Court that commenced before that date but are pending as at that date.

(3) In subsection (1) —

“civil family proceedings” means any proceedings in any court involving any matter relating to —

- (a) maintenance of a divorced woman, or a minor child of parties to a marriage on divorce or nullity of marriage;
- (b) disposition or division of property on divorce or nullity of marriage; or
- (c) custody of, care and control of, or access to a minor child of parties to a marriage on divorce or nullity of marriage;

“court” means a court of competent jurisdiction, other than the Syariah Court;

“minor child” means a child who is below 21 years of age;

5 “party to a foreign divorce or nullity of marriage” is an individual described in section 33A(2) of the principal Act as in force on or after the date of commencement of section 9 of this Act.

10 (4) For a period of 2 years after the date of commencement of any provision of this Act, the President of Singapore may by rules prescribe any additional provisions of a saving or transitional nature consequent on the enactment of that provision that the President of Singapore may consider necessary or expedient.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This Bill seeks to amend the Administration of Muslim Law Act 1966 (the Act) for the following main purposes:

- (a) to expand the functions of the Majlis to include the oversight and funding of tertiary religious education at the Singapore College of Islamic Studies (SCIS), which is a tertiary-level education institution operated by a public company limited by guarantee known as Singapore College of Islamic Studies Ltd. (college company);
- (b) to provide legislative recognition of the college company’s function to confer degrees, diplomas and certificates, etc., in respect of tertiary religious education;
- (c) to facilitate the provision of funding to the college company and provide for controls to ensure accountability for use of that funding;
- (d) to enhance the powers and processes of the Syariah Court (Court) and to reduce administrative burden on Muslim couples undergoing divorce;
- (e) to require a foreigner to have a minimum period of stay in Singapore in order for the foreigner’s marriage to be solemnised under the Act;
- (f) to make other amendments to the Act in relation to halal certification and record-keeping matters.

The Bill also makes consequential and related amendments to certain other Acts.

Clause 1 relates to the short title and commencement.

The rest of the Bill is divided into 6 Parts.

PART 1

PRELIMINARY

Part 1 consists of clauses 2 and 3, and concerns preliminary matters.

Clause 2 amends the long title to take into account the coverage of matters relating to the SCIS under the Act.

Clause 3 amends section 2 to remove the phrase “unless the context otherwise requires” as section 2(2A) of the Interpretation Act 1965 already provides that a definition applies unless the context otherwise requires.

The clause also amends section 2 to introduce new definitions, tidy up existing definitions and insert definitions for existing terms used in the Act. The more significant new definitions or amendments to existing definitions are described in the following paragraphs.

New definitions have been inserted to define terms used in the amendments relating to the SCIS in Part 2 of the Bill (such as the definitions of “college company”, “Islamic teacher”, “SCIS” and “tertiary religious education”).

The term “annulled” in the existing definition of “child of the parties” has been replaced with the term “nullified”, for consistency with existing terminology in section 35. The terms “annulled” and “nullified” are currently used interchangeably in the Act with no intended difference in meaning. Similar replacements have been made in other provisions, in relation to grammatical variations of those terms (see the amendment of sections 43C(5)(a), 52(8)(m) and 97(2) by clauses 13, 18 and 25, respectively).

A new definition of the term “minor child” is inserted to reflect what the term means in practice in existing provisions of the Act. The existing definition of the term “dependent child of the parties”, which has the same meaning, has therefore been deleted from section 2. The reference to a “dependent” child in section 46A(12) has also been replaced with a reference to a “minor” child (see clause 14).

PART 2

AMENDMENTS RELATING TO SINGAPORE COLLEGE OF ISLAMIC STUDIES

Part 2 consists of clauses 4 to 8, and concerns amendments relating to the SCIS.

Clause 4 amends section 3(2) to insert the new paragraphs *(da)* and *(db)* on 2 new functions of the Majlis. The 2 new functions concern the Majlis' oversight of tertiary religious education at the SCIS for the purposes of developing Islamic teachers who are suitably qualified and trained to guide the Muslim community in Singapore, and provision of financial support to the college company for the establishment, operation, maintenance or promotion of the SCIS for purposes connected with tertiary religious education.

Clause 5 inserts the new Part 4A on the SCIS which is divided into 4 Divisions.

Division 1 (Preliminary) consists of new sections 73B, 73C and 73D.

The new section 73B explains what a reference to the operation of the SCIS means.

The new section 73C(1) provides legislative recognition of the function of the college company to confer and award degrees, diplomas and certificates, etc. The main object of the college company is to provide tertiary-level Islamic instruction to its students for the purpose of developing a pool of graduates who would be duly qualified to be Islamic teachers to support the religious affairs of Muslims in Singapore.

The new section 73C(2) is to avoid doubt. It clarifies that the college company can carry out any function in respect of any higher education that is not tertiary religious education where it is in accordance with the objects of the college company. It is envisaged that there may be electives offered in conjunction with a degree in tertiary religious education that may be secular or non-religious in nature, such as sociology or psychology.

The new section 73D empowers the Majlis to provide funding to the college company for the operation of the SCIS for any purposes connected with tertiary religious education. This does not prevent the college company from receiving funding from the Government for any other higher education (not being tertiary religious education) that it provides at the SCIS, and also does not prevent the college company from obtaining any other funding for its operation of the SCIS in accordance with its constitution or any written law.

Division 2 (Oversight by Majlis of tertiary religious education at SCIS) consists of a new section 73E which empowers the Majlis to give directions to the college company for or in respect of its provision of tertiary religious education at the SCIS.

The new section 73E(1)(a) to (d) sets out purposes for which the Majlis may give directions. The purposes include ensuring that the college company's provision of tertiary religious education at the SCIS would be aligned with the conduct of Muslim religious affairs in Singapore and would not undermine Singapore's multi-racial and multi-religious society, and are not envisaged to affect the day-to-day operations of the SCIS.

The following are examples of directions that may be given under the new section 73E(1):

- (a) a direction to require the college company to employ or engage local teachers recognised by the Majlis under the Asatizah Recognition Scheme (established pursuant to section 87) to ensure that local teachers employed or engaged at the SCIS are fit and proper individuals with satisfactory training and experience;
- (b) a direction on safeguards to pre-empt any deviant religious teaching or remedial measures if any deviant religious teaching is discovered.

The new section 73E(2) is to avoid doubt. It clarifies that the Majlis cannot give a direction under the new section 73E(1)(a) that affects the college company's employment or engagement of other teachers or individuals (including any staff) at SCIS where their work concerns secular matters, whether in relation to the teaching of any secular components of tertiary religious education at the SCIS or secular work such as administrative work.

Division 3 (Oversight by Minister or authorised person) consists of new sections 73F to 73I. The key areas of oversight are described below:

- (a) The new section 73F sets out the frameworks under which the college company is accountable to the Minister and under which its performance is evaluated.
- (b) The new section 73G provides for the Minister to appoint, remove and replace individuals (including the Chief Executive) as directors of the SCIS Board. If the individual to be appointed, removed or replaced is not the Chief Executive, the Minister has to consult the Chief Executive before doing so.
- (c) The new section 73H sets out the matters that require the prior written consent of the Minister (which mainly concern major decisions such as disposal of property, winding-up, etc.). Any act done or agreement made without such prior written consent has no effect and is unenforceable at law.
- (d) The new section 73I permits the Minister or a person authorised by the Minister to have access to the financial records of the college company and to require any person in possession of any requisite information to provide such information. It also requires the college company to make a summary of its financial statements available to the public.

The key areas of oversight are similar to the key areas of oversight by a Minister in other public Acts relating to autonomous universities.

Division 4 (Miscellaneous provisions) consists of new sections 73J and 73K.

The new section 73J clarifies that the Societies Act 1966 applies to any student body constituted under the provisions of the constitution of the college company unless otherwise exempted by the Minister charged with the responsibility for societies. This is intended to provide accountability for the funds of the students' union and its constituent bodies.

The new section 73K provides that the Bill will prevail over —

- (a) any provision of the constitution of the college company; and
- (b) any by-law, rule or regulation made under any provision of that constitution.

It also makes clear that the Act is not to be construed as excusing or exempting the college company from complying with any written law that, apart from the Act, would apply to it.

Clause 6 amends section 86A to insert a new subsection (4) to exclude the SCIS from being treated as a Muslim religious school within the meaning of section 86A(1). Although the SCIS can fall within that meaning of a Muslim religious school, it is not envisaged that the SCIS be treated like one which is subject to registration under the Act due to the unique status of the SCIS as an institution of higher education focused on tertiary religious education.

Clause 7 amends section 88G to allow the college company to make an appeal to the Minister against any decision by the Majlis to give a direction under the new section 73E(1). The clause also makes other drafting refinements to existing provisions of that section, mainly to clarify that any decision of the Majlis described in section 88G(a) may be the subject of appeal, including any decision to act, or to give any order or direction.

Clause 8 amends section 88I(7) to make drafting refinements as a consequence of the drafting refinements made to section 88G by clause 7.

PART 3

AMENDMENTS RELATING TO JURISDICTION OF SYARIAH COURT AND RELATED MATTERS

Part 3 consists of clauses 9 to 22, and concerns amendments relating to the jurisdiction of the Court and related matters concerning matrimonial proceedings under the Court's jurisdiction.

Clause 9 inserts a new section 33A in Part 3 of the Act to —

- (a) set out definitions of terms used in the new provisions concerning new orders that the Court may make consequent on foreign matrimonial proceedings;

- (b) explain the meaning of a party to a foreign divorce or nullity of marriage; and
- (c) re-enact the existing definition of “property” in section 52(14) (that currently applies only for the purpose of section 52), as the term “property” will now also be used in other provisions of the Act.

For paragraph (a) above, the key new terms that are defined are “CCCA order” and “FR order” which are the new orders that the Court will be empowered to make consequent on foreign matrimonial proceedings. A “CCCA order” concerns an order with respect to the custody of, care and control of, or access to a minor child while an “FR order” concerns any order for financial relief.

For paragraph (b) above, what it means to be a party to a foreign divorce or nullity of marriage is relevant because only such a party has standing to apply to the Court for any CCCA order or FR order under a new section 52A. In particular, the parties to the marriage must both be Muslims in all proceedings in the Court, or married under the provisions of the Muslim law. The marriage concerned could have taken place in Singapore or in a foreign country, but there is a divorce or nullity of marriage in a foreign country which is recognised as valid under the provisions of the Muslim law.

Clause 10 amends section 35 mainly to insert a new subsection (3A) which expands the jurisdiction of the Court to hear and determine an application for any CCCA order or FR order made by a party to a foreign divorce or nullity of marriage. The Court has jurisdiction if one of the parties meets the requirements relating to domicile or residency in Singapore described in the new section 35(3A)(a) or (b). There is no change to the present requirement under section 35(2) that the Court has jurisdiction only where in all actions and proceedings all the parties to the marriage are Muslims, or where the parties were married under the provisions of the Muslim law.

The clause also makes drafting refinements to replace the term “nullification of marriage” in section 35 with the term “nullity of marriage”, to more precisely describe the legal status of the marriage and with no intended change in meaning. Similar drafting refinements are made by other clauses of the Bill.

Clause 11 re-enacts section 35A(1) and (2) with amendments. Those amendments are consequential upon the expansion of the Court’s jurisdiction under the new section 35(3A) in respect of CCCA orders and FR orders. The clause also makes other amendments for consistency with existing terminology in the Act.

Clause 12 inserts a new section 35AB to require that a party with the standing to make an application for a CCCA order or FR order must nevertheless first apply to the Court for permission to make that application. The new section 35AB is modelled after section 121D of the Women’s Charter 1961 (WC).

The new section 35AB sets out considerations that the Court may take into account in deciding whether or not to grant the permission. In particular —

- (a) The new section 35AB(2) requires the Court to consider whether there is substantial ground for making an application for the CCCA order or FR order.
- (b) The new section 35AB(3) gives the Court discretion to grant permission even though there is an existing foreign order. The Court is therefore not bound to grant permission in such a case and may take into account all relevant factors. The relevant factors could include (but are not limited to) the adequacy of the foreign order, the manner in which the foreign order was obtained and whether the enforcement remedies were manifestly inadequate.

If the Court grants permission, the permission could be subject to conditions that the Court thinks fit. For example, if there is an existing foreign order, the Court has discretion to decide whether to impose a condition that the applicant must apply for a discharge of the existing foreign order or undertake not to enforce the existing foreign order.

Clauses 15 and 16 amend sections 46B and 47, respectively, mainly to allow a wife to pronounce a divorce after her husband has delegated the pronouncement of divorce to her. This aims to reduce the time taken for divorce proceedings, as the new provision for delegation removes the need for the Court to appoint a hakam in cases where there is mutual agreement for divorce.

Clause 16 also amends the definition of “married woman” in section 47(6) (which applies for the purposes of sections 47, 48 and 49) to include a woman who has pronounced a divorce after her husband has delegated the pronouncement of divorce to her. This amendment has the effect that such a woman would not be precluded from applying for divorce by cerai taklik or fasakh under section 48 or 49, respectively.

Clause 17 amends section 49 to insert a new subsection (4A) to confer discretion on the Court to dispense with the requirement for sworn statements of at least 2 witnesses under section 49(4) or substitute that requirement with any requirement that the Court thinks fit, if the Court considers that the sworn statement requirement is not practical or necessary in the circumstances. For example, this could be in cases where the applicant has renounced Islam or is a foreigner or recent Muslim convert who may not realistically be able to obtain statements from 2 witnesses.

Clause 18 amends section 52 to enhance the powers of the Court in relation to orders for the custody of, or care and control of, a minor child of parties to a marriage.

The new subsection (3A) codifies the existing practice that the welfare of the minor child is the paramount consideration in deciding any order for custody or care and control and subject to this paramount consideration, the Court is to have regard to the wishes of the parents of the minor child or the minor child if he or she is old enough to express an independent opinion. This provision is modelled after section 125(2) of the WC.

The new subsection (5A) makes clear that the conditions of an order for custody, or care and control, may include certain conditions such as where the minor child is to reside. Custody orders and care and control orders are subject to the new subsections (5B) and (5C) which elaborate on matters restricting a minor child from being taken out of Singapore. These new subsections are modelled after provisions in section 126 of the WC.

The new subsection (5D) empowers the Court to issue an order to restrain the parent with no custody, or no care and control, from taking the minor child out of Singapore, or to grant permission for the minor child to be taken out of Singapore. This new subsection is modelled after section 131(1) of the WC.

The new subsection (5F) allows the Court to review any order for custody or order for care and control of a minor child made before the date of commencement of section 18 of the Administration of Muslim Law (Amendment) Act 2026 (past CCC order). The review may be on application of the father or mother of the minor child, or in the course of any matrimonial proceedings before the Court and on the Court's own motion, if the Court is of the opinion that the review is necessary for the welfare of the child.

The new subsection (5G) sets out the powers of the Court following a review of a past CCC order. The Court may impose conditions on the order (such as those set out in the new subsection (5A)) or do what is similarly provided for in the new subsection (5D)(c) or (d).

The new subsection (5H) sets out the safeguard that applies when the Court acts on its own motion to review a past CCC order, namely that the Court must give the parents of the minor child an opportunity to be heard.

The new subsection (5I) is to avoid doubt that where the Court reviews a past CCC order on its own motion, the new subsections (5G) and (5H) apply instead of the general provisions in section 43(2) and (3).

Subsection (13) of section 52 (on offences) is re-enacted with amendments as a consequence of the various new subsections of section 52 described above.

Clause 19 inserts a new section 52A which provides for CCCA orders and FR orders that the Court may make consequent on foreign matrimonial proceedings. The new section 52A is modelled after provisions in Chapter 4A of Part 10 of the WC (which relate to orders on financial relief consequent on foreign matrimonial proceedings), with the necessary modifications to suit the context of Muslim

marriages under the jurisdiction of the Court and the making of orders by the Court for custody of, care and control of, or access to a minor child.

Clause 20 amends section 53 mainly to make various consequential amendments arising from the amendment of section 52 by clause 18, namely that certain orders made by the Court under the amended section 52 would be enforced by a Family Court (as is the existing practice under the Act). A CCCA order or FR order is to be treated as an order made under section 51 or 52 and enforceable in accordance with section 53, as provided by the new section 52A(5) inserted by clause 19.

The clause also makes drafting refinements for consistency with existing terminology in the Act, and clarifies the application of the WC in connection with a Family Court's powers of enforcement.

Clause 21 amends section 55 to make drafting refinements for consistency with the existing terminology in the Act, and to reflect the existing practice where an Appeal Board's decisions are enforceable by a Family Court. The clause also expands on the list of appealable decisions as a consequence of the amendments in Part 3 of the Bill.

Clause 22 amends sections 43B(1), 56B(1)(d) and (e) and 145(2)(d) so that those provisions also apply in relation to proceedings involving the care and control of, or access to, a child (in addition to proceedings involving the custody of a child, as is the present case).

PART 4

AMENDMENTS RELATING TO MARRIAGE

Part 4 consists of clauses 23 to 26, and concerns amendments relating to Muslim marriages.

Clause 23 amends section 95 to insert a new subsection (2A) to clarify that an application for solemnisation of a marriage is to be made in accordance with rules made under section 145 (as is the existing practice under the Act).

Clause 24 amends section 96 to insert the new subsections (6), (7) and (8).

The new subsection (6) provides that foreigners must fulfil a minimum period of stay in Singapore (to be prescribed by rules made under section 145) before the date of an application for solemnisation or written consent for solemnisation mentioned in the new section 95(2A), in order for the marriage to be solemnised under the Act.

The new subsection (7) empowers the Registrar of Muslim Marriages to waive the requirement in the new subsection (6), if the Registrar of Muslim Marriages is satisfied that there are good reasons to do so.

The new subsections aim to ensure that foreigners who wish to marry in Singapore have some nexus to Singapore. They are modelled after section 18(1)(c) and (2) of the WC, with the necessary modifications to suit the context of Muslim marriages in Singapore.

Clause 26 re-enacts section 105 with amendments mainly to give an individual a right to appeal to an Appeal Board constituted under section 55, if the individual is aggrieved by a decision of the Registrar of Muslim Marriages not to waive the requirement for the minimum period of stay under the new section 96(6).

PART 5

AMENDMENTS RELATING TO HALAL CERTIFICATION AND RECORD-KEEPING MATTERS

Part 5 consists of clauses 27 to 30, and concerns amendments relating to halal certification and record-keeping matters.

Clause 27 puts beyond doubt the existing practice that the Majlis may cancel, suspend or revoke the recognition granted to a foreign halal certification body in accordance with rules made under section 88C.

Clauses 28 and 29 amend section 100 and insert a new section 100A, respectively, mainly to tidy up existing provisions so that each section only deals with the kind of register(s) to be kept and maintained by the Registrar of Muslim Marriages and the registrar of the Court, respectively.

Clause 30 deletes sections 143 and 144 as these sections currently set out similar provisions on registers and are no longer necessary with the amendment and insertion made by clauses 28 and 29, respectively.

PART 6

CONSEQUENTIAL AND RELATED AMENDMENTS AND SAVING AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Part 6 consists of clauses 31 to 35, and concerns consequential and related amendments to other Acts and saving and transitional provisions.

Clause 31 deletes section 20 of the Administration of Muslim Law (Amendment) Act 2022 which would have inserted new subsections (6) and (7) to section 96, as those new subsections have been superseded by the new amendments to section 96 inserted by clause 24.

Clause 32 amends the definition of the term “order of court” in section 27A of the Central Provident Fund Act 1953, to include a reference to an order made under the new section 52A of the Act for the disposition or division of property consequent on foreign matrimonial proceedings. That term is used in Part 3A

(Division of Fund-Related Assets in Matrimonial Proceedings) of the Central Provident Fund Act 1953.

Clause 33 amends section 45(1) of the Private Education Act 2009 to insert a new paragraph (*k*) so that the college company and its managers, or teachers of the SCIS, will not be regarded as a private education institution, or managers or teachers of a private education institution, respectively.

Clause 34 amends section 17A of the Supreme Court of Judicature Act 1969 to provide for consequential amendments arising from the re-enactment (with amendments) of section 35A(1) and (2) of the Act by clause 11.

Clause 35 provides for saving and transitional provisions.

EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC MONEY

This Bill will not involve the Government in any extra financial expenditure.
